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Space Case (Moon Base Alpha)



Synopsis

It's a murder mystery on the moon in this humorous and suspenseful space adventure from the author of *Belly Up* and *Spy School* that *The New York Times Book Review* called "a delightful and brilliantly constructed middle grade thriller." Like his fellow lunaronauts "otherwise known as Moonies" living on Moon Base Alpha, twelve-year-old Dashiell Gibson is famous the world over for being one of the first humans to live on the moon. And he's bored out of his mind. Kids aren't allowed on the lunar surface, meaning they're trapped inside the tiny moon base with next to nothing to occupy their time and the only other kid Dash's age spends all his time hooked into virtual reality games. Then Moon Base Alpha's top scientist turns up dead. Dash senses there's foul play afoot, but no one believes him. Everyone agrees Dr. Holtz went onto the lunar surface without his helmet properly affixed, simple as that. But Dr. Holtz was on the verge of an important new discovery, Dash finds out, and it's a secret that could change everything for the Moonies "a secret someone just might kill to keep..."

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 750 (What's this?)

Series: Moon Base Alpha

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (October 13, 2015)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 1.1 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (111 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Life on Moon Base Alpha isn't exactly out of this world. Especially when it comes to middle of

the night trips to the communal bathroom. Dashiell Gibson begins his telling of this lunar whodunnit by explaining the ins and outs of lunar living. Though, to be clear, aside from the honor of a place in the history books, Dash mostly covers the remarkably unglamorous downsides of being one of earth's first "moonies" – bad food, the substitution of recycled urine for water, and the challenges presented by every day tasks like going to the bathroom. And it's precisely there where the whole mystery unfolds. You see, it's while Dash is in the bathroom that everything gets crazy. First, he breaks the toilet. Then, he overhears Dr. Holtz's phone conversation as the scientist is bubbling over with enthusiasm about a discovery that he plans to share with residents of the base in the morning. Only the new day holds a different kind of surprise – Dr. Holtz has died. And Dash is convinced that he's been murdered! If you've read Stuart Gibb's FunJungle series, Space Case will feel familiar. As FunJungle series opener Belly Up places a young man (Teddy Fitzroy) in an unusual setting (living on the zoo/theme park grounds), so Space Case sees its hero on the moon. In each novel, there is a mysterious death whose investigation serves as our young protagonist's respite from the usual doldrums of his day-to-day existence. Despite a small cast of characters, the suspect list becomes fairly long and complicated. Dash befriends new moonie, Kira, who becomes his partner-in-crime-solving.

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